

1 INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND SERVER, AND INFORMATION  
2 PROCESSING UNIT AND PROGRAM

3 **ABSTRACT**

4 Information distribution methods, systems and apparatus are  
5 provided in which, rather than specifying the addresses of  
6 recipients of a content, a combination of attributes is  
7 specified as criteria so that only those recipients that  
8 meet the criteria can receive the content. An example  
9 embodiment, provides an attribute key management server for  
10 managing secret keys and public keys for given attribute  
11 values, user terminals for accessing the attribute key  
12 management server to obtain attribute secret keys  
13 corresponding to their attributes generated based on secret  
14 keys, and a provider terminal for generating an encrypted  
15 content that can be decrypted by user terminals that has  
16 the attribute secret keys corresponding to given attributes.  
17 The provider terminal distributes the encrypted content and  
18 the user terminals decrypt the encrypted content that can be  
19 decrypted by using their attribute secret keys.

20 [Selected Drawing] Figure 1